

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AF-10
NEA-10 SMS-01 SAA-01 SES-02 /130 W
-----082647 231401Z /44

R 230705Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5135
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1734

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: SECOND DEMARCHE ON WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM

REF: STATE 211463

1. ON AUGUST 22, AMBASSADOR AGAIN MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TSVETKOV, PRESENTED ORALLY AND IN WRITING AIDE-MEMOIRE PRECISELY AS GIVEN IN REFTEL. TSVETKOV, ACCOMPANIED BY UN AFFAIRS OFFICER GAVRALOV, WAS CLEARLY TAKEN ABACK BY THE STRONG DEMARCHE. DISCUSSION (WHICH LASTED A FULL HOUR) REVEALED THAT TSVETKOV, THOUGH HE IS THE DEPUTY MINISTER OVERSEEING BOTH UN AND US AFFAIRS, WAS NOT AWARE OF THE
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RESOLUTION CO-SPONSORED BY THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION. ACCORDINGLY, HE INITIALLY HYPOTHESIZED THAT PERHAPS THE BULGARIAN DELEGATE, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE, HAD BEEN EXPRESSING A CONSENSUS JUDGMENT IN WHATEVER STATEMENT WE WERE REFERRING TO. AFTER CLARIFICATION BY AMBASSADOR (AND GAVRALOV), TSVETKOV ARGUED: (1) THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT HOLDS A CONSISTENT STAND OF PRINCIPLE AGAINST RACISM

IN ANY FORM, AND THIS IS A LONG-STANDING AND FIRM POSITION:

(2) BULGARIA ESPECIALLY OPPOSES RACISM IN ITS MOST ACUTE FORM, AS IN SOUTH AFRICA, BUT ALSO OPPOSES RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ANY FORM INCLUDING AS PRACTICED BY ISRAEL IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES; (3) THERE WERE, IN ADDITION, SOME INSTANCES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TOWARD IMMIGRANTS AND MIGRANT WORKERS IN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, AND AS NOTED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS ALSO IN THE US. HE DID NOT OFFER ANY EXPLANATION FOR LACK OF CANDOR IN NOT ADVISING US IN ADVANCE OF THE BULGARIAN INITIATIVE, BUT OF COURSE HIS IGNORANCE OF THE INITIATIVE EXPLAINS WHY HE HAD NOT MENTIONED IT ON AUGUST 16.

2. DISCUSSION AND DEBATE CLARIFIED SHARP BULGARIAN AND US DIFFERENCES. TSVETKOV (AND AMBASSADOR) WERE UNYIELDING IN EXPRESSING AND EXPLAINING DIFFERENT POSITIONS.

3. TSVETKOV THEN EMPHASIZED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING CLEAR DIFFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT AND SOME OTHERS, BULGARIA CONSIDERED QUESTION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER, AND REAFFIRMED BULGARIAN DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE US. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT "SOME US ACTIONS" CONCERNING EUROPE, AFRICA, ETC, WERE NOT HELPFUL TO DETENTE. AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING SERIOUS DIFFERENCES ON SOME INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, AND REAFFIRMED

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AMERICAN INTEREST ALSO IN IMPROVING BULGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE ALSO STATED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THIS FACT, EXPRESSIONS OF SUCH DIFFERENCES, AND PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE INITIATIVES IN EMPHASIZING SUCH DIFFERENCES, COULD HAVE ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE CLIMATE FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR ALSO REFUTED THE IDEA THAT AMERICAN ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ANY PART OF THE WORLD WERE UNHELPFUL TO DETENTE; AMERICAN POLICY AND ITS APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO PARTICULAR SITUATIONS IS ALWAYS CONSISTENT WITH PURSUIT OF DETENTE BUT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT OBSTACLES TO DETENTE RAISED BY OTHERS.

4. COMMENT: TSVETKOV HAD RETURNED FROM VACATION ONLY ON AUGUST 15, BUT HIS IGNORANCE OF BULGARIAN CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE RESOLUTION, NOT ONLY ON AUGUST 16 BUT EVEN AS LATE AS AUGUST 22, IS SURPRISING. PRESUMABLY BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED THE RESOLUTION A STANDARD PLOY IN CONTINUING POLITICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SOVIET ALIGNED COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND THE US IN PARTICULAR AND WESTERN POWERS IN GENERAL. OUR DEMARCHE OF AUGUST 16 MAY NOT HAVE HAD MUCH IMPACT, BUT THAT OF AUGUST 22 PROBABLY HAS. WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE IN BULGARIAN

POSITION, IT MAY HELP GIVE MEANING TO THE IDEA OF CONSULTATION EVEN WHERE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES EXIST. TSVETKOV WAS INTERESTED TO CLARIFY PRECISELY THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEMARCHE, AND THE AMBASSADOR MADE CLEAR THAT THE AIDE-MEMOIRE WAS BEING PRESENTED TO THE BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT ON INSTRUCTION FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE SPEAKING FOR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. GARTHOFF

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